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Terry A. Bridgman  
Executive Vice President

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FDIC San Francisco Regional Office  
Director Johns F. Carter  
25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square  
Suite 2300  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Director Carter,

Thank you for allowing me to comment on Wal-Mart's application for deposit insurance for its pending Utah based Industrial Loan Company.

After much review and study of this issue, it appears that the best interest of the country is not served by allowing a giant corporation into the financial services industry when that corporation has had no experience meeting the financial needs of the communities in which it hopes to operate.

As a small community bank employee I am concerned that the type of competition for which Wal-Mart is noted would be detrimental to our community. I can imagine that small businesses who act as suppliers to Wal-Mart would be required to do business with them and thereby lose their bargaining power and deprive them of superior service and the best terms and rates available to them. In my opinion, their desire to operate as a bank goes against the grain of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and Representative Leach has so stated.

In addition, Wal-Mart already enjoys a vast competitive advantage over small businesses so much so that community grocery stores, pharmacies and hardware stores, to name a few, have been eliminated as competitors. Most have been driven out of business. Are community banks the next industry to suffer a like fate? It would appear so if they are allowed to compete with us. Branch banks in Wal-Mart would be the end of the community bank as we know it today.

I have tried to simplify this letter and keep it short to honor your time. I hope you will give it your full consideration when the final decision is made.

Best Regards,

Terry A. Bridgman  
Executive Vice President